

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	: 10/804,186	Confirmation No.	: 6767
First Named Inventor	: Werner DOETSCH		
Filed	: March 19, 2004		
TC/A.U.	: 1797		
Examiner	: Monzer R. Chorbaji		
Docket No.	: 101771.53337US		
Title	: Stabilized Hydrogen Peroxide		

REPLY AFTER FINAL ACTION

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed March 9, 2010.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

First Obviousness Rejection

The rejection of claims 4, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Grimberg et al., US 5,609,821 and Feasey et al., US 5,130,053 is respectfully traversed.

The Present Invention

The presently claimed invention relates to a method of sterilizing a foodstuff packaging material by passing the packaging material through a dip bath liquid comprising hydrogen peroxide and 200 to 500 ppm of a foodstuff-compatible phosphonic acid. A further requirement for the sterilization process involves using a dip bath liquid that has been previously used to sterilize a foodstuff packaging material. Because a recycled dip bath liquid is used, the resulting liquid is contaminated with packaging material residues. The fact that the contaminated hydrogen peroxide treated with 200 to 500 ppm of the phosphonic acid maintains its stability at higher temperatures is a surprising result.